631 The Kathīri claims the Hamumi, Nahd, 'Awābitha and Sei'ar tribes as his allies. The agreement with the Nahd, which is said to be similar to those with the Hamumi, 'Awābitha and Sei'ar, is included in an appendix. It is stated that these tribes would join the Kathīris if there was trouble with the Qu'aitis.

Kathīri Towns.

101 The country ruled by the Kathīris was formerly of vast extent and stretched from the 'Aulaqi country on the west to the Mahri on the east, including the country of Dhufar beyond. The history of the circumscription of the territory to its present limits appears sufficiently in an earlier chapter of this report.

631 Of the six towns or villages mentioned as being included in the
632 Kathīri dominions Seiyun and Tarim are the largest. Seiyun, the capital of the Āl 'Abdulla Sultans, is a walled town of over 1,500
361 houses and about 50 mosques. The suburbs, which are all to the east of the town, are extending fairly rapidly with the building of pleasant looking residencies, most of them with their own gardens. The population is said to be about 20,000. Tarim is also a growing town with an estimated population of 15,000. Its walls, which are over five miles in length and are furnished with five gates and 25 forts, enclose a great deal of open space so that most of the better class houses have their own gardens. There are over 2,000 houses, and there are said to be 300 mosques, one of which, built by the Al Kafs, has the highest minaret in the Hadhramaut and is of an unusual pattern. The principal shrine in Tarim is that of Maqaddam Faqih. There are growing suburbs outside the walls such as 'Aidīd, but some of the suburbs such as Thibi, Dammūn, and Beit Jabīr, belong to the Tamimis and are under
342 Qu'aiti influence. Tarim and Seiyun are striking for their many
365 palaces, equipped in modern style, to which reference has already
312 been made. These houses have a water supply laid on and pumped up by small petrol engines. The towns are well supplied with wells, and Tarim is remarkable for being the only town in the Hadhramaut with public conveniences, which, however, are rough mud erections and very insanitary.

361 Taris is a village lying to the west of Seiyun, and its inhabitants
529 do not exceed 700. Mariama is a small village to the east of Seiyun with a population of about 300. Al Ghurf, also a small village, lies to the north of Tarim and has a population not exceeding 250. Gheil bin Yomein is said to be a popular place of resort during the autumn. It is a small village of which the majority of the inhabitants are Beduins.

565 A great deal of wealth comes into the Kathīri towns from the East Indies, and the towns of Tarim and Seiyun, which are considered centres of culture and learning, include many wealthy inhabitants whose fortunes have been made in the East Indies.
000 The whole of the Kathīri part of the wadi is accessible by motor

2:Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1945 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

qualification. Pomp and circumstance mean little to a tribesman and nothing at all if they are only window dressing. It is worth while quoting what Tabari says of the Khalif Umar's instructions to governors: "Whenever he appointed a governor he used to draw up in writing a certificate of investiture. It contained the following instructions: That he must not ride on horseback, nor eat white bread, nor wear fine clothes, not set up a door between himself and those who had aught to ask of him."[1]

An officer living in many of these countries must not expect a life of ease and comfort, and he must be ready to do without the sort of things that he considers the ordinary amenities of life, such as games, clubs, European society and its distractions. If he cannot find interest and entertainment in local society and its diversions, he is better elsewhere. The same applies to his wife. Freya Stark once wrote that the British are always popular until they bring their wives. This is exaggerated but there is a great deal of truth in it, and I have often heard the complaint that wives caused the lack of understanding between British officers and their people by keeping their husbands away from the people.

Apart from personal qualities an officer must have not only a knowledge of the language of the country but a knowledge of and sympathy with its religious customs. He must know its history and the more he knows of its literature the better. Without these he cannot speak with the enemy within the gates. Finally, he must have a general grounding of administrative or technical knowledge and experience. When he sees a suitable opening and can get the requisite co-operation he should be in a position to help to put finances on a sound basis, and to help in the development of medical services, education and agriculture. He should be of an inventive turn of mind and should be able to make a little money do the work of a lot. He should be able to make bricks without straws.

I cannot, of course, pretend to speak for any area of which I have not direct experience, but from what I have seen and heard of the rest of the Middle East I have the feeling that it is qualifications of this kind that are needed there also.

It may be to some extent a counsel of perfection to ask for officers of these qualifications, but I find it difficult to believe that candidates with many or all of them and with the necessary missionary spirit cannot be found; and I think there would be a far greater chance of finding them if there were a recognized unified political service from which political officers and advisers could be selected for the various posts which we have or may have to fill in this area. If there were such a service it should be possible to attract better candidates to it as there would be a cadre large enough to offer a reasonable career.

Of course that is not enough by itself to ensure a settled, or at any rate a more settled, Middle East. There is the importance of adequately garrisoning the area (of showing force as Lyautey, often quoted by Brigadier

[1] R. A. Nicholson, *Literary History of the Arabs* (London, Cambridge University Press, 1930).

16: Gardner A-4 (1937-38) 1939 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

tufa surrounds, and almost blocks, the outlet, and forms a small fan below. In one case a narrow channel has been humanly cut in the deposit to lead the water into a cement tank from which periodically a few palms are watered. The surplus water overflows and is lost in the scree. Growing amongst the huge boulders are shrubs and trees, wild figs, *Ficus salicifolia*, and *F. sycamorus* being particularly common. Around the water itself maiden-hair fern and other small plants make a pleasant green garden in the rocky desolation.

At this level there is a limestone platform or shelf some 10–11 m. wide, and on the edge of this occur the outcrops of Pleistocene tufa. In the Wadi Luqrun it is a block 5 m. thick and 3–4 m. high, which is evidently but a remnant of a much more extensive deposit, for traces were detected on the walls of the great limestone overhang. Its present size and isolation are some measure of the time that has elapsed since its formation. A few badly preserved fossil leaves were found here, but also a considerable number of small cavities which, as in Kharga, are the moulds of fruits. Most of these show no structure and are therefore unidentifiable, but Mrs. E. R. Reid, who kindly examined them, found one that was certainly a fruit of a species of *Celtis*.

A climb of 50 m. or so up the scree slope to the top of the Cretaceous limestone leads over bare rock to the upper course of the wadi. In time of spate the waters must cascade in a fall over the lip. At Luqrun traces only of tufa occurred at this upper level, but in a valley east of Hureidha a much larger outcrop was found which yielded many leaves. Here, after half an hour's ride along the wadi floor, the track climbs gradually up the stony scree slope to the top of the Cretaceous limestone. A hundred metres or so from the edge a mass of tufa occurs as a terrace remnant 15–16 m. above the limestone floor. It is 4·6 m. high and rests on limestone breccia. This outcrop was particularly rich in leaves. The commonest types closely resemble figs, but without the fruits this identification cannot be assured. Some however seem identical with the *Ficus sycamorus* leaves found in the Kharga tufas,[1] and another resembles *F. salicifolia*; as both trees are still growing nearby they probably occur as fossils. Some kind of palm is certainly present and one or two other unidentified types. The shells are scarce and not well preserved. *Melania tuberculata*, *Zootecus insularis*, and a *Planorbis* were present. More abundant is the cast of a lava very similar in appearance to that found in Kharga and considered by Dr. Zeuner to be that of a dipterous insect.

The pool at the foot of the cliff was examined. It is called "El Bahr"—the sea[2]—and is a favourite bathing-place, the Badawin climbing the cliff and diving in from a considerable height. Local tradition calls it bottomless, and a weighted tape failed to touch bottom at 19 m. It would seem to be a super pot-hole, ground out through the ages by the swirling stones and water of the seasonal cascade from higher levels. It is in the shade for most of the day, and water remains all the year. The shallows around are covered with soft

[1] Gardner, "The Pleistocene fauna and flora of Kharga Oasis" (*Quart. J. geol. Soc.*, vol. xci, December 1935.)

[2] Van der Meulen and von Wissmann in 'Hadramaut: some of its mysteries unveiled' describe this place. "After energetic scrambling over fields of stone and up slopes of rock we actually arrive at El Bahr, a deep, rocky basin, full of water, with high cavernous walls, from which, after rain, the water must fall in spray into the basin."

18:Ingrams G-3 (1934-36)1938 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

passes Gheil Ba Wazir, a well-built walled town and the headquarters of the Hamumi tobacco-growing industry. The most skilful diggers of wells and irrigation channels and tunnels come from this place and the system of water which irrigates the tobacco plantations is extremely thorough.

Shihr is an ancient town. Its present walls are not old but there has been a town on this site for at least eight hundred or nine hundred years, and the principal coastal town of the neighbourhood has been hereabouts for a great deal longer. Mukalla of course is much newer. Shihr is an important fishing centre and vast quantities of fish are brought in daily to be sun dried for up-country consumption or eaten fresh locally. Weaving, dyeing, and mat making are minor but locally important industries. About 7 miles from Shihr is Tubala which has been built on a hill over sulphurous springs. This place has won local renown for its sulphur baths and quite a number of rheumatic sufferers have visited it. Hami, farther along the coast, has an even larger number of hot springs, but the picturesque site of Tubala suggests the possibility of a Spa hotel, easily accessible by car from Shihr, and we have rather prematurely considered the positions of the Pump Room and Concert Hall in the Spa Gardens. In view of the progressive ideas of His Highness and the Seiyids in the interior, the provision of a few hotels is not an unlikely development before long, and the country will be an ideal winter resort. Shihr is the principal market for the whole of the eastern Hadhramaut, including all the Kathiri country, and its imports by sea are very considerable, although it is worse off for harbour facilities than Mukalla, as it is nothing but an open roadstead and has no jetties; but apart from the local Aden steamers even ocean-going steamers call there as well as at Mukalla.

Most of the carrying trade is in the hands of the great Hamumi tribe, which has no real villages of its own and extremely few dwelling-houses, but which owns a very large number of camels. The chief of the tribe also owns a great quantity of date palms in different parts of the Hamumi country. I have recently done a considerable amount of flying over Hamumi country which extends over about 3000 square miles and is now well known to the Royal Air Force.

When we first went up the road to Tarim in November 1936 the car road was of course not completed and some 20 miles northwards from Shihr there was a gap which had to be traversed by donkey through Ma'adi, the country of the Ba Hasan Tanbulis who had steadfastly resisted the attempts of Seiyid Bubekr and the Al Kaf family to complete it. These Ba Hasan Tanbulis are allied to the Hamumis and are nicknamed Tanbuli because they are the only people in the whole of the Protectorate who grow betel nut and pepper vine, though Ibn Batuta speaks of it at Dhufar a good deal to the east, and I expect it exists there still. There is nothing much in the countenances of the Ba Hasanis to make you think they are related to the Hamumis, for as a whole the Hamumis are fine-looking men and uncouth is a mild word to describe the general run of Ba Hasanis. Hamumis themselves have said to me that they are not human beings, and an Arab friend, when we were looking at some of the more primitive of them, said to me: "They only want tails and you would say they are monkeys." However they grow on you as I daresay monkeys do after a time, and I am now quite fond of them. When

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

351 If we had been transported bodily into a bit of the Indies. The fruit-trees best known in that country are represented here, and a sultry, moist heat permeates the shadows of this richly watered garden.

529 In front of the garden villa, built in a modern style, but not yet quite finished, is a cemented swimming-pool about 300 feet long and of the same width as the building. It joins onto the stairs of the terrace, and a trim rowing-boat lies motionless on the crystal clear water. To do us honour the basin has been filled by means of an engine-pump, and, although the water is warm, we show our appreciation at once by enjoying a bathe, and a row in the boat.

249 277 387 Our host, who is acting for the Sultan, is a tobacco-grower as well as an official. He says that the Ḥumûmî tobacco can only be grown here. They are trying to cultivate the same kind in Lahadj, behind Aden, and in the Yemen; as the climate and the soil are not similar the result is a product which in perfume and taste is inferior to that grown here. Cultivation in el-Ghêl is carried to a very high pitch of refinement. The tobacco-plants are manured three times: with guano, with fish, and with the dung of beasts and men. Pure water is used for irrigation, not too much and not too little. Each kind of dung is applied to the plant at the right time. The best guano comes from an island on the coast of Somaliland, for which the British authorities have given a concession. A second kind of guano is found on islands near Bîr ʿAlî, to the west of Makalla, and near Aden. The entire harvest of tobacco is exported to Egypt, and from there a part of it goes to Syria and to the countries on the Red Sea. The Ḥumûmî tobacco is broken up and cut into wide strips, and is smoked in water-pipes. The stalks can be used at the same time and for this reason the plants are dried whole, not the leaves alone. They are then bound into large bundles an packed into oblong bales, the weight of a camel's load, that is to say 300 lbs. The price of such a bale is nowadays 120 to 130 rupees.

1 [OF THE SULTAN AT GAYL BÂ JUBÎR — ANALYST]

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

000 a chance of success some money could be spared for it. Close
172 to this spring lie against the mountain-wall the ruins of Khurēḍa, the town from which Ḥurēḍa is said to have taken its name. It may be presumed that these ruins date from well into pre-Islamic times, in spite of the fact that we found no inscriptions to prove it. There are remains of houses, namely foundations of stone, two wells, which are still very deep, and a cistern, which is plastered with a kind of cement. A fragment of an aqueduct of mason-work leading to the spring is still to be seen.

312 Tins of water are carried on donkeys from the spring to Ḥurēḍa. We advised that the spring and the rocky basin in front of it should be cleaned out right up to the massive rock, then cemented, and the water brought at least as far as the valley by means of a conduit of iron piping, thus saving much output of energy and minimizing the possibility of pollution and the spilling of water.

After this, under the guidance of the Bedouin Sayyid ʿAlī, we go through the palm-groves and over the dry irrigation canals to the other wall of the wādī, where, in a fissure of the rock, there is said to be a little pool which always has water. Sayyid ʿAlī does not much like the hot climbing, but we
329 persevere in it. After energetic scrambling over fields of stone and up slopes of rock we actually arrive at el-Baḥr, "the sea", a deep, rocky basin, full of water, with high, cavernous walls from which, after rain, the water must fall in spray into the basin. It is a splendid place for a swim. The temperature of the water is certainly high, but it is so broiling hot in the chasm that the contrast is refreshing. The basin is so deep that we cannot dive to the bottom. Sayyid ʿAlī performed one of his great feats, on the occasion of a picnic, by climbing up the high wall of rock and diving thence into the basin. That nearly all these men of the desert are good swimmers and daring divers certainly points to the natural giftedness of the race. Ḥaḍramis who have never seen the sea enlist as pearl-divers or go as stokers on long voyages.

1/A [ONE MILE SW. OF HUREDA -- ANALYST]

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

4. A WONDERFUL RECEPTION IN THE GARDEN CITY SEḤĒL SHIBĀM.

The families of Āl Ṭuwēy and Laᶜdjam are on the best of friendly terms with the Sultan and arrange matters with him. A little later the great dark-red cars buzz through the gate and cross the *sēl*-bed in the direction of the palm-groves, called Seḥēl Shibām. Only in the last few years has the motor-car penetrated as far as Ḥaḍramaut. Sayyid Abū Bakr el-Kāf of Terīm has made this possible by the construction of motor roads. Motor-cars can, with great difficulty, be brought from the port of esh-Shiḥr to Terīm. The separate parts of the cars have to be transported on camels for a great part of the way. From the road one can see very little of the palm-groves and the summer pavilions in their midst; high mud walls shut off the gardens from the gaze of passers-by. There is one exception to this, where the central point is formed by a new building in modern style. This is the club of the young men of Shibām; no women come here and so there is nothing to shut off. A little further on the cars turn into the gateway that gives entrance to the garden of the Āl Ṭuwēy and Laᶜdjam. This summer abode of their joint families is still uninhabited; the time for moving from town to country has only just come. There is a well behind the house, from which oxen and donkeys draw up the water, clear as crystal, though tasting somewhat bitter. All around there are banana and papaya trees, pomegranate and lemon bushes as well as date-palms. The new summer pavilion is in the depths of the garden; our host has devoted his leisure to building it. It is a product of Ḥaḍramī imagination influenced by Singapore and Java. For the outer walls chaste, simple white has been abandoned and is replaced by soft green, rose and sky-blue. The great windows are framed by coloured ornamentation. Connected with the villa is a swimming-bath with a high parapet. One has a great longing for colour in this sunny land, where it is so lacking, and this fairy palace strikes a happy note among

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

afterwards with wet body in the dry evening breeze certainly does. Of course there is a servant with a samovar, who provides the glasses of tea, which are always welcome in this country of dry heat. The ripest dates are brought from the gardens; they are sweet but very astringent. The foreigner accustoms himself but slowly to this unusual and, at first, unappetising food. But soon he learns to appreciate the date whilst it is still hard and fresh.

Swimming by moonlight is an unexpected luxury and a particular pleasure to us in this country. On one side, close to the swimming-pool, there is a space for the *ṣalāt*, where a niche in the wall indicates the *qibla*[1];- on the other side there is a summer pavilion. Everything has a wash of light, delicate colour; the lines of the walls and roofs are edged with fine figures and borders, and one is inclined to forget that the material of which they are made is plain, brown mud. We spend quite a long time together with the young people on brotherly terms. They let themselves go now that no elders are present. Swimming and diving competitions are held with great gusto, until the time comes for the *ṣalāt el-ʿishā'* (the late evening ritual prayer), which is performed with suitable solemnity. The evenings at home on the great roof-terrace are always very attractive; only intimate friends remain till then, and our host puts questions which show clearly how his thoughts are always occupied with his country and people, and how he is seeking ways for their advancement.

There are many difficulties in the making of a road to esh-Shiḥr. The Ḥumūmī Bedouins, notorious for their love of fighting, and through whose territory passes the greater part of the road, have — after being richly paid — made a pact by which they promise not to oppose it and whereby Sayyid Abū Bakr binds himself only to allow the use of the road for travellers by motor-car, while the conveyance of freight shall be left to the camels of the Bedouins. There is only left unfinished a stretch of three days by camel.

[1] The *qibla* is the direction in which Mecca lies.